



Idaho State Senate

State Capitol
P.O. Box 83720

Boise, Idaho 83720-0081

February 22, 2012

Senator Elliot Werk and Representative Clifford Bayer
Joint Legislative Oversight Committee
HAND DELIVERED:

Dear Senator Werk and Representative Bayer:

The Senate Education Committee has heard conflicting reports on public school educators. Some reports suggest teachers are moving to states where pay is more lucrative; other reports state union membership is falling; while others suggest educators are staying in their classrooms longer because of the effects of the recession on their pensions. There is concern that our universities are not graduating educators in the numbers to fill positions likely to open in teaching ranks in the near future.

We believe a study is warranted, specifically in the following areas:

1. Educator recruitment – How do new teachers find their way into this profession and why?
2. Teacher attrition – Why do teachers leave the profession, where do they go, and in what numbers?
3. Teacher retention – What keeps Idaho teachers in the classroom?
4. Projected future needs – In the face of an aging teaching workforce and a growing population, what are Idaho's anticipated needs for future educators?
5. Are teachers graduating with the skills to be successful in today's classrooms and, if not, what are those deficiencies?
6. National statistics would support the theory that educators moving from one state to another, lose about half their pension potential over their work careers. How does PERSI treat educators moving from another pension system to Idaho's and vice versa?
7. Identify the challenges and opportunities to attract new teachers and retain current staff.
8. Provide a decade of historical data on supply of educators verses job openings.
9. The ratio of students to certified teachers does not always reflect the number of students in a classroom since many certified teachers focus on other duties. An effort to segregate certified teachers associated with a classroom would help better understand the issue.
10. Examine changes in duties of teachers and whether there are new burdens on time and attention created by a loss of Community Resource Workers, counselors and other support staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John W. Goedde", written over a circular stamp or seal.

Senator John W. Goedde

cc: Rakesh Mohan, Office of Performance Evaluation

JG/lms

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Idaho State Senate

SENATOR JIM HAMMOND

February 27, 2012

The Honorable Senator Elliot Werk
The Honorable Representative Clifford Bayer
Co-Chairmen,
Joint Legislative Oversight Committee (JLOC)
HAND DELIVERED

Dear Senator Werk and Representative Bayer,

I understand you received a study proposal from Senator Goedde, Chairman of the Senate Education Committee, exploring various aspects of teaching and teachers as a profession. If JLOC pursues Senator Goedde's proposal, I suggest adding another area to the list; to wit, data on class size variations in Idaho.

Idaho currently maintains data on student/teacher ratio, but that includes all certificated staff in the school district. It would be helpful to also have a handle on the class size – whether it is high, low, average, median – and it should probably be segregated by school district size.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jim Hammond".

Senator Jim Hammond
Chairman, Senate Transportation Committee
Legislative District 5